

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PM-03 INR-05

DODE-00 CIAE-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SP-02 EUR-08 EB-03

OMB-01 /051 W

----- 060313

R 260940Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7282

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4058

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, XF, IS, US, EG, SY

SUBJECT: RABIN'S FIRST YEAR; CHANGE OR CONTINUITY?

1 FOLLOWIN IS SIMMARY OF A-113;" RABIN'S FIRST  
YEAR: CHANGE OR CONTINUITY?", TRANSMITTED TO  
ADDRESSES ON JUNE 25, 1975.

2. IN THE WAKE OFTHE OCTOBER WAR AND ISRAEL'S  
SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL CRISIS, THE RABIN GOVERNEMTN AFTER  
A SHAKY START HAS TURNED IN A SURPRISINGLY STRONG  
PERFORMANCE. THE MOST STRIKING DEVELOPMENT HAS  
BEEN THE CONSOLIDATIONOF THE PRIME MINISTER'S  
POSITION. DESPITE AN UNCHARISMATIC AND INROVERTED  
STYLE, RABIN HAS IMPOSED HIS OWN UNIQUE IMPRINT ON  
ISRAELI POLICY, AND IN FOREIGN AND SECURITY AFFAIRS  
HAS EMERGED AS THE GOI'S DOMINANT PERSONALITY. HE IS  
GENERALLY REGARDED BY ISRAELIS AS NEITHER DOVE NOR  
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HAWK; IN THE VIEW OF MOST COMMENTATORS RABIN HAS SET

A PRAGMATIC COURSE, COMBINING A COMMITMENT TO THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS WITH AN INTENSE CONCERN FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. THERE IS A BROAD CONSENSUS, HOWEVER, THAT SO FAR THE HARDEST DECISIONS HAVE BEEN ONLY DEFERRED AND THAT THE GOI'S MOMENT OF TRUTH STILL LIES AHEAD.

3. ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE RABIN IS MANEUVERING BETWEEN DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED FORCES, ON THE ONE HAND MODERATE ELEMENTS PRESSING FOR A MORE DYNAMIC AND FLEXIBLE POLICY AND ON THE OTHER RIGHT-WING GROUPS, INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COALITION, OPPOSED TO WITHDRAWALS WHICH THEY PERCEIVE AS DETRIMENTAL TO VITAL ISRAELI SECURITY INTERESTS. THE REVIVAL OF NEGOTIATIONS UNDER U.S. INITIATIVE REPRESENTS A NEW CHALLENGE. BEYOND THE IMMEDIATE POLITICAL STRUGGLE OVER THE TERMS OF AN INTERIM EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT LOOMS A GREAT NATIONAL POLICY DEBATE, STILL ONLY IN ITS INITIAL STAGES, ON SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE.

4. WITHIN THE SHORT SPAN OF RABIN'S STEWARDSHIP, BILATERAL US-ISRAELI RELATIONS REACHED SOME KIND OF ZENITH WITH THE FIRST EVER PRESIDENTIAL VISIT IN JUNE 1974, BUT THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD OF SEVERE STRAIN AFTER THE SUSPENSION OF NEGOTIATIONS IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. RABIN WON PRAISE FOR THE DECISION TO STAND FIRM DURING THE U.S. REASSESSMENT, AND REPORTS OF AN IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE IN HIS LATEST WASHINGTON VISIT ARE INTERPRETED HERE AS VINDICATING THIS APPROACH. THE GOI, VERY MUCH AWARE OF ITS DEPENDENCE ON U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, HAS PUT UP A HARD FRONT AGAINST LINKAGE OF ITS AID REQUEST TO ITS NEGOTIATING POSITIONS.

5. IN THE ECONOMIC ARENA, THE GOI HAS SHOWN THE ABILITY TO TAKE HARD DECISIONS, IMPOSING STRONG MEASURES INTENDED TO TIGHTEN BELTS, FACING AN OPEN STRUGGLE WITH THE HISTADRUT OVER WAGE AND TAX POLICY, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND PROPOSING A MAJOR REFORM OF THE INCOME TAX SYSTEM IN AN EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THE NATION'S SEVERE ECONOMIC DETERIORATION. RABIN HAS MADE A FIRM COMMITMENT TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO ILLEGAL STRIKES, PARTICULARLY IN VITAL PUBLIC SERVICES, AND TO ROOT OUT CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOI HAS NOT YET ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF ELECTORAL REFORMS, ACKNOWLEDGED BY AMNY AS THE PREREQUISITE FOR

THE BREAKUP OF THE EXISTING PARTY POWER STRUCTURE  
AND ITS REPLACEMENT WITH MORE REPRESENTATIVE  
INSTITUTIONS. IN SUM, THE APPROACH OF THE RABIN  
GOVERNMENT ON A HOST OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY  
ISSUES IS NOT YET FULLY CRYSTALLIZED AND HAS LEFT  
UNANSWERED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TRANSFER OF  
POWER TO A NEW LEADERSHIP LAST YEAR HAS  
GENERATED FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE OR -- AS  
SOME CRITICS CHARGE -- ONLY UNDERSCORED THE  
RIGIDITY OF ISRAELI INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES.  
VELIOTES

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## Message Attributes

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